

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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INFO USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
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USEEC

USICA FOR VOA/PN, PGM/RC, PGM/PPE, EU

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, MASS, TU, GR, CY, US
SUBJECT: TURKISH MEDIA ON US-TURKISH RELATIONS, NATO SUMMIT,
ECEVIT CONTACTS
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REF: A) ANKARA 4067, B) ANKARA 4097

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. SUMMARY: PRIMIN ECEVIT'S CONTACTS
IN WASHINGTON AND EVENTS SURROUNDING NATO SUMMIT HAVE
DOMINATED TURKISH MEDIA ALL WEEK. TOPICS GRABBING HEADLINES
HAVE INCLUDED: TURKISH-NATO RELATIONS, THE ARMS EMBARGO,

TURKISH RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND GREECE, CYPRUS, AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. PRESS COVERAGE (INCLUDING TELEVISION AND PRESS PHOTOS SHOWING ECEVIT WITH NATO LEADERS) HAS ENHANCED HIS DOMESTIC IMAGE. END SUMMARY.

2. TURKEY AND NATO: TURKISH PRESS HAS FOLLOWED CLOSELY EVENTS AT NATO SUMMIT. ON MAY 31, PRESS GAVE PROMINENCE TO ECEVIT ADDRESS AT OPENING OF NATO SUMMIT AND EMPHASIZED HIS REMARKS:

- THAT PEACE SHOULD BE SOUGHT NOT THROUGH ARMING BUT THROUGH DETENTE AND DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO BLOCS,
- THAT ALL FLANKS OF NATO SHOULD BE ACCORDED EQUAL VALUE, AND
- THAT THERE IS A NEED FOR EQUAL SHARING OF ALLIANCE BURDENS AMONG ALL MEMBERS.

EARLY IN THE WEEK, SOME PAPERS HAD INDICATED THAT TURKEY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO TAKE PART IN THE LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM, BUT JUNE 2 PRESS NOTES THAT IN HIS CLOSING STATEMENT TO THE NATO LEADERS, PRESIDENT CARTER REPORTEDLY SAID THE LONG-TERM PLAN TO IMPROVE NATO'S DETERRENT CAPABILITY AND EFFICIENCY WAS "ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY." AT THE SAME TIME, PRESS GAVE HIGHLIGHTS OF SUMMIT COMMUNIQUE, INCLUDING:

- NATO'S CONCERN OVER INCREASING SOVIET INTERFERENCE AND EXPLOITATION OF EVENTS IN AREAS, SUCH AS AFRICA,
- NATO'S CRITICISM OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOVIET UNION AND SOME EASTERN EUROPEAN NATIONS, AND

- NATO'S CALL FOR CLOSER RELATIONS AND UNDERSTANDING WITH THE COUNTRIES OF EASTERN EUROPE.

HOWEVER, THE OPOOSITION PRESS HIGHLIGHTED THE ABSENCE FROM THE COMMUNIQUE OF ANY MENTION OF THE EMBARGO.

3. THE EMBARGO: PRESS HAS COVERED WIDELY STATEMENTS MADE ABOUT THE ARMS EMBARGO AND NOTED WHAT IT IDENTIFIES AS AN IMPROVING CLIMATE IN THE U.S. FOR THE LIFTING OF ARMS RESTRICTIONS ON TURKEY. ON MAY 31, THE PRESS HIGHLIGHTED WEST GERMAN CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S REMARKS MADE ON TELEVISION THAT THE EMBARGO SHOULD BE REMOVED. JUNE 1 REPORTING WAS DOMINATED BY CARTER-ECEVIT BILATERAL WITH EMPHASIS LAID ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S COMMITMENT TO WORK FOR THE REPEAL OF THE EMBARGO. THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ON THE DELETERIOUS EFFECTS OF THE EMBARGO ON TURKEY'S ABILITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO NATO ALSO RECEIVED WIDE COVERAGE. PRESS ON JUNE 2 NOTES "CAMPAIGN" TO LIFT THE EMBARGO, INCLUDING:

- ECEVIT'S MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF HIRC,
- PRESIDENT CARTER'S MEETING WITH CONGRESSMEN AT THE WHITE HOUSE, AND
- ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST'S TESTIMONY BEFORE THE

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES SUB-COMMITTEE.
ALSO, COLUMNISTS OF NEARLY ALL POLITICAL PERSUASIONS
COMMENT ON ECEVIT'S "ACHIEVEMENTS"
WHILE IN WASHINGTON AND EMPHASIZE:
--THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS CLEARLY COMMITTED
TO WORK FOR LIFTING THE EMBARGO.
--THAT THE ATMOSPHERE FOR LIFTING THE EMBARGO IS
IMPROVING IN THE U.S., AND
--THAT THE GREEKS, NOT THE TURKS, ARE BEGINNING
TO BE SEEN AS THE INTRANSIGENT PARTY IN THE CYPRUS DISPUTE.

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4. TURKISH-SOVIET RELATIONS: A NUMBER OF PAPERS, PARTICULARLY ON THE LEFT, PROMINENTLY PLAYED EXCERPTS FROM BERNARD GWERTZMAN'S INTERVIEW IN THE NEW YORK TIMES WITH PRIMIN ECEVIT. THE HEADLINES EMPHASIZED ECEVIT'S CONFIRMATION THAT HE WILL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VISIT MOSCOW IN LATE JUNE AND PROBABLY SIGN A POLITICAL DOCUMENT WHILE IN THE SOVIET CAPITAL. THE PRESS ALSO NOTED ECEVIT'S REPORTED REMARKS THAT THE POLITICAL DOCUMENT WILL NOT BE A NON-AGGRESSION PACT AND THAT TURKEY IS NOT CURRENTLY PRLANNING TO ACCEPT SOVIET MILITARY AID. ECEVIT'S COMMENT TO THE TIMES THAT THE SOVIET UNION DOES NOT REPRESENT A THREAT TO TURKEY WAS FOLLOWED ON JUNE 1 BY PRESS REPORTS ECEVIT AND CARTER DO NOT SEE EYE TO EYE ON THE SOVIET "THREAT". WRITING FROM WASHINGTON ON JUNE 1, MILLIYET'S ABDI IPEKCI DEFENDED ECEVIT'S REMARKS ABOUT SOVIET-TURKISH RELATIONS, SAYING TURKEY'S OPENING TO THE SOVIETS RESULTED FROM A LATE START IN THE PROCESS OF DETENTE AND A DESIRE TO HAVE A DIALOGUE WITH ITS NEIGHBOR.

5. CYPRUS: ELEMENTS OF THE JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED AFTER THE CARTER-ECEVIT BILATERAL APPEARED IN THE PRESS, INCLUDING THE TWO LEADERS' AGREEMENT THERE IS A NEED FOR A CYPRUS SOLUTION AND ALSO THEIR HOPE UNSYG WALDHEIM WILL CONTINUE HIS CONTACTS WITH THE TWO CYPRIOT COMMUNITIES AND BE ABLE TO CALL FOR RESUMPTION OF INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS. ON JUNE 2, THE MEDIA COVERED CYPRIOT PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU'S ALLEGED REMARKS THAT HE INTENDS TO WARN PRESIDENT CARTER OF THE DANGERS INHERENT IN HIS EFFORTS TO LIFT THE EMBARGO. IN ADDITION, KYPRIANOU IS SAID TO HAVE REGISTERED SURPRISE AT THE ASSERTION IN THE CARTER-ECEVIT COMMUNIQUE THAT UNSYG WALDHEIM IS CURRENTLY IN TOUCH WITH LEADERS OF THE CYPRIOT COMMUNITIES.

6. ECONOMIC ISSUES: A CONSTANT THEME IN REPORTING ON THE NATO SUMMIT ACTIVITIES OVER THE PAST WEEK HAS BEEN PRIMIN ECEVIT'S INSISTENCE NATO HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO ASSIST TURKEY WITH ITS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND AMERICAN ASSURANCES IT IS PREPARED TO BE OF ASSISTANCE WHERE POSSIBLE. WRITING IN MILLIYET ON MAY 31, ABDI IPEKCI NOTED PRIMIN ECEVIT WILL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MAKE ECONOMIC ISSUES A MAJOR PART OF HIS WASHINGTON VISIT ON JUNE 5, WHEN HE REPORTEDLY WILL SEE CABINET OFFICIALS, INCLUDING THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY AND SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

7. TURKISH-GREEK RELATIONS: MEDIA HAVE CONTINUED TO REPORT ON ECEVIT-KARAMANLIS BILATERAL IN WASHINGTON MAY 29 AND SPECULATE ON ISSUES DISCUSSED. JUNE 1, A NUMBER OF PAPERS NOTED ECEVIT'S STATEMENT HE WANTS THE DIALOGUE WITH GREECE TO CONTINUE AND TO BE SUBSTANTIVE. JUNE 2 PRESS FOCUSES ON ALLEGED FAILURE OF PRESIDENT CARTER AND GREEK PRIME MINISTER KARAMANLIS TO AGREE ON THE EMBARGO ISSUE AS REFLECTED IN THE JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED AFTER THEIR WHITE HOUSE MEETING. IN ADDITION, SOME REPORTS NOTE JOINT STATEMENT CALLED FOR COOPERATION IN EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE PEACE IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN AND PROMISED U.S. GUARANTEES OF GREEK SECURITY. IN THE MOST SURPRISING COMMENT OF THE WEEK, AN EDITORIAL IN OPPOSITION TERCUMAN NOTED THAT ECEVIT HAD BEEN REALISTIC IN CEASING TO RESIST A LINKAGE BETWEEN CYPRUS AND THE EMBARGO, AND THAT HE WAS DOING THE RIGHT THING BY LOBBYING IN THE U.S.

8. TURKISH PERCEPTION OF U.S. POLICY-MAKING PROCESS: PRO-GOVERNMENT MILLIYET REPORTED ON MAY 31 ECEVIT REMARKS THAT, WHETHER IT LIKES IT OR NOT, TURKEY MUST ACCUSTOM ITSELF TO DEALING WITH THE U.S. NOT JUST ON A GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT BASIS. IN THE FUTURE, TURKEY WILL HAVE TO TAKE CONGRESS INTO ACCOUNT, HE REPORTEDLY SAID. AT THE SAME TIME, ACCORDING TO MILLIYET, ECEVIT LAMENTED THE "PARALYSIS" OF THE USG CAUSED BY AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY BEING HELD HOSTAGE TO DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSTRAINTS. END UNCLASSIFIED.

9. BEGIN LOU. COMMENT: PRESS REACTION SO FAR LEADS US TO THESE PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS ABOUT DOMESTIC IMPACT OF ECEVIT'S CONTACTS IN THE U.S.:

A. IN SPITE OF COMPETING DOMESTIC PROBLEMS AND OPPOSITION CRITICISM AIMED AT DIMMING THE LUSTER OF HIS PERFORMANCE, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ECEVIT FOCUSED TURKISH PUBLIC ATTENTION ON HIS FOREIGN POLICY INITIATIVES AND ON HIMSELF AS TURKEY'S STANDARD BEARER IN THE EFFORT TO LIFT THE EMBARGO. THUS, THE TRIP HAS PROBABLY HAD GREAT VALUE FOR HIM IN DOMESTIC POLITICAL TERMS.

B. ECEVIT'S PRESENCE IN WASHINGTON AND CONSTANT MEDIA EXPOSURE HAVE FORCED HIM TO CLARIFY HIS STAND TOWARD NATO AND THE U.S.

C. THE PRESS HAS GIVEN FRIENDLY COVERAGE TO THE U.S. AT AN OPPORTUNE TIME. PRESIDENT CARTER'S WILLINGNESS TO WORK FOR LIFTING THE EMBARGO--WHICH HERETOFORE WAS WIDELY DOUBTED IN TURKEY--HAS BEEN STRONGLY EMPHASIZED. SPIERS

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